

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 100599 TOSEC 110132

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ORIGIN SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 100599 TOSEC 110132

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN LONDON MADRID  
MOSCOW OPORTO PARIS PONTA DELGADA NATO DIA USCINCEUR  
FROM LISBON DTD 26 APR 1976 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2676

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

PARIS PASS ASST SEC HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY ELECTION ANALYSIS: MODEST DRIFT TO RIGHT

SUMMARY: NEARLY COMPLETE, BUT UNOFFICIAL, RESULTS SHOW  
SLIGHT DRIFT TO RIGHT, BUT NOT A MASSIVE SHIFT. PARTIES  
REMAIN ESSENTIALLY WHERE THEY WERE BEFORE ELECTIONS --  
SOCIALISTS CLEARLY NUMBER ONE; PPD SECOND; WITH CDS  
REPLACING PCP IN THIRD POSITION. CDS GAINS CAME  
PRIMARILY AT PPD EXPENSE. COMMUNISTS ARE HOLDING  
THEIR OWN AND STRENGTHENED THEIR POSITION IN THE LISBON  
INDUSTRIAL BELT AND THE ALENTEJO. END SUMMARY.

1. AS OF 11:00 A.M. WITH 77 PERCENT OF THE RETURNS IN,  
RESULTS SHOW:

-- PS, 35.05 PERCENT (37.8 IN 1975);

-- PPD, 24.03 PERCENT (26.4);

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 100599 TOSEC 110132

-- CDS, 15.78 PERCENT (7.65);

- PCP, 14.61 PERCENT (16.65 INCLUDING MDP/CDE;
- BLANK AND NULL VOTES, 4.85 PERCENT (6.9);
- FAR LEFT PARTIES, 4.64 PERCENT (3.97);
- FAR RIGHT PARTIES, 1.05 PERCENT (.06).

2. RETURNS STILL TO COME, ROUGHLY HALF FROM LISBON AND THE REST PRIMARILY FROM THE RURAL NORTH, ARE UNLIKELY TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE FINAL OUTCOME. THE PCP PERCENTAGE WAS HELPED BY HIGHER ABSTENTION RATE, SLIGHTLY OVER 16 PERCENT, DOUBLE LAST YEAR'S PERCENTAGE.

3. COMMENT:

- THE PCP IS HOLDING ITS OWN, ALTHOUGH DOWN SLIGHTLY FROM COMBINED VOTE IN 1975. IT HAS SOLIDIFIED ITS CONTROL IN STRONGHOLDS IN SETUBAL AND THE ALENTEJO, PICKING UP BULK OF 1975 MDP AND BLANK VOTES, BUT ALSO CUTTING INTO PS ELECTORATE. PS ALSO LOST SOME VOTES TO PPD IN THESE AREAS.
- PS 35 PERCENT CONFIRMS THE LEADING ROLE OF THE SOCIALISTS. THE PARTY WAS AND IS THE BALANCE WHEEL OF PORTUGUESE POLITICS. WHILE FALLING OFF A COUPLE OF POINTS FROM LAST YEAR'S PERCENTAGE, THE PS MAINTAINS ITS 11 POINT LEAD OVER A SECOND-PLACE PPD. BUT 35 PERCENT WILL PROBABLY NOT ENABLE SOARES TO RULE ALONE, ALTHOUGH HE SAYS HE WILL TRY.
- THE CDS HAS DOUBLED ITS PERCENTAGE, MOSTLY AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PPD. MOVING UP TO THIRD POSITION, AHEAD OF THE PPD MOVING UP TO THIRD POSITION, AHEAD OF THE PCP, IS AN IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL VICTORY FOR THE CDS. DUE TO CONCENTRATION OF PCP VOTE, CDS MAY COME OUT WITH FEWER DEPUTIES.
- THE PPD IS THE PSYCHOLOGICAL LOSER. NOT ONLY DID THE MASSIVE SHIFT TO THE RIGHT FAIL TO MATERIALIZE, BUT THE PPD CLEARLY FINISHED SECOND BEST IN THE COMPETITION WITH THE CDS FOR THE SHIFT WHICH DID TAKE PLACE. SA CARNEIRO WILL BE THE UNHAPPIEST PORTUGUESE POLITICIAN TODAY.

5. IN SUM, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS HAVE EMERGED INTACT,  
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PAGE 03 STATE 100599 TOSEC 110132

AND PERHAPS BEEN REINFORCED. THE OVERALL STRENGTH OF THE THREE MAJOR DEMOCRATIC PARTIES HAS INCREASED SLIGHTLY, UP TO 75 FROM THE 72 PERCENT OF A YEAR AGO. EQUALLY SIGNIFICANT, HOWEVER, THERE HAS NOT BEEN A SIGNIFICANT DIMINUTION OF THE VOTE ON THE LEFT. LAST YEAR THE COMBINED PCP-MDP-ULTRA LEFT TOTAL WAS 21 PERCENT. THIS YEAR IT WILL PROBABLY REACH 19-20.

6. FURTHER ANALYSIS FOLLOWS.  
CARLUCCI UNQTE SISCO

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